

some time, but finally did so some distance away; and as I knew I could "sneak upon them" for observation at that particular place, I did so. As I cautiously looked around a corner of button-bushes, there they sat in the floating duck-weed, heads up and ready to jump on the instant, while surrounding them, unconcernedly feeding, were seven young Wood Duck, another species which breeds regularly in the wooded swamp between the two localities mentioned. The young Blacks are very tame up to the time of the hunting season, and I have thrown green apples at one in open water without being able to make it fly, although the water all but splashed the bird. This seems strange considering the extreme wariness of the adult bird.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

**Ruddy Shelldrake on the Atlantic Coast.**—*Casarca ferruginea* has been taken in Greenland but not in the United States, so far as I know, until recently. A specimen was captured at Barnegat Bay in 1916 by Mr. W. H. Eddy, of Darby, Pa., and was identified by the editor of 'The Auk,' who, on general principles, was disposed to regard it as an escaped bird. Whether this was true or not we cannot know. It appears that the bird is not very uncommon in captivity, for Mr. Lee S. Crandall, Curator of Birds at the N. Y. Zoological Park, tells me that they have specimens there, and that the species has been bred on at least two occasions by Mr. William Bronwin, of Rye, N. Y.

On the other hand, a reported capture of this species on Currituck Sound in North Carolina has been current there for many years. This occurrence was related to me by Mr. W. L. McAtee, of the Biological Survey, but as the specimens were not preserved it did not seem best to note the incident until a specimen actually killed in the United States could be recorded. Mr. Eddy has furnished this specimen.

The reported North Carolina capture took place at a shooting resort kept by Jasper White near what is now known as Water Lily Post Office, Currituck County, N. C. Jasper B. White, the son of the man who kept the resort, was then a young man. A Mr. Fred Simonds, of Reading, England, in company with his uncle, had come to Currituck Sound for the shooting and was staying with J. B. White's father. The two young men were shooting together one day when a flock of five ducks came to them, of which three were shot. These birds were new to J. B. White, but Fred Simonds recognized them and told White that they were Ruddy Shelldrakes. Later, after he had returned to England, Mr. Simonds sent White a copy of 'British Game Birds and Water Fowl,' with colored plates, by Beverly R. Morris, and a letter received at the same time told White that the birds they had shot were figured in the book, and the plate of the Ruddy Shelldrake was at once recognized.

Mr. Jasper B. White writes me that the birds taken in Mr. Simonds' company were killed in 1886. He adds that he has seen birds of this species several times since then, and that they always appear in very cold weather. For some time he has been endeavoring to collect specimens for

Mr. McAtee, and recently winged one of a flock of five, which he followed and almost overtook. He was within a few feet of it before it got under the ice and escaped, and is confident of the identification.

The Barnegat specimen of the Ruddy Sheldrake secured by Mr. Eddy was killed November 14, 1916, while he was gunning on the east point of Sloop Sedge in Barnegat Bay. It was mounted and is still in his possession. It was recently again examined by Dr. Stone, who detected in the specimen no evidences of past captivity. It seems in all respects normal.

A "Yellow" Duck, quite unlike any bird known to old gunners who saw it, was killed last winter near Poplar Branch, Currituck Co., N. C., but the specimen was not preserved.

These reports suggest that at any time we may learn of other examples of *Casarca ferruginea* taken on the Atlantic Coast.—GEO. BIRD GRINNELL, *New York City*.

***Exanthemops* Elliot an Excellent Genus.**—The name *Exanthemops* Elliot (New and Unfig. Birds North Amer., II, pt. IX, 1868, pl. XLIV and text; type, by original designation, *Anser rossii* Cassin) is now used in subgeneric sense under the genus *Chen*, for *Anser rossii* Cassin. It was, however, originally proposed as a generic term; and the group somewhat recently has been rediagnosed and revived by its original describer (Elliot, Wild Fowl U. S. and Brit. Poss., 1898, pp. 268, 269). That this, moreover, is well justified is evidenced from an examination of the three species, *Chen hyperborea* (Pallas), *Chen carulescens* (Linnæus), and *Chen rossii* (Cassin). The first and second of these are strictly congeneric and constitute the genus *Chen* Boie; but the last differs so much and so fundamentally, that it ought not to remain in the same genus. The group that it represents, to which of course the name *Exanthemops* Elliot is applicable, may be diagnosed as follows: Similar to *Chen*, but bill relatively as well as actually shorter and not as long as the head; commissure not widely gaping; base of maxilla much wrinkled and warty in adult; anterior outline of the feathering on the sides of the base of the maxilla nearly straight, instead of triangular or strongly convex; tarsus  $1\frac{3}{4}$  (instead of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) times the exposed culmen; wing about  $8\frac{3}{4}$  (instead of 7) times the exposed culmen. One of the characters given by Elliot (Wild Fowl U. S. and Brit. Poss., 1898, p. 268) — "depth [of bill] at base less than half the length of the culmen," appears not to hold, since there is no difference in this respect between *Exanthemops* and the species of *Chen*. The genus *Exanthemops* as here recognized is monotypic, and its only species will now stand as *Exanthemops rossii* (Cassin).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Notes on the Structure of *Anseranas semipalmata*.**—The remarkable Australian Pied or Semipalmated Goose has been variously regarded as a member of the Anserinæ (Newton, Dictionary of Birds), as an independent subfamily, Anseranatinæ (Salvadori, Catalogue of Birds), and as of family rank, Anseranatidæ (Stejneger, Standard Natural History).